Armstrong Leads 'Zulu' Band In Mardi Gras Pleasure Prowl

Washington Post
Washington D.C.

New Orleans, March 1 (U.P.). Louis (Satchmo) Armstrong raised his shiny trumpet in one hand today and a glas of champagne in the other and took the warriors of the Zulu Social, Aid and Pleasure Club of Down Poydras Street in unsteady search of Mardi Gras pleasure. Wed-3-2-49

Satchmo, possibly the greatest jazz trumpet player alive, presided over the Negro Mardi Gras celebration "back of town." Along Canal Street, up St. Charles Street and through the French Quarter, the white people were making merry with bottle, costume and mask.

All told, 500,000 to 600,000 persons, native and tourist, were preparing for lent.

Rex, the white king of misrule, and his queen paraded down St. Charles st. and up Canal.

Rex was Lester F. Alexander, a middle-aged shipbuilder. His queen was Dolly Ann Souchon, a 19-year-old debutante of an old French family.

They stopped in front of City Hall to drink a toast with Mayor Delesseps S. Morrison and Gen. George C. Marshall, former Secretary of State.

Comus, the oldest of the Mardi Gras organizations, holds its parade tonight. Comus and Rex entertained thousands of members of their carnival organizations and guests at balls tonight.

The Zulus had five jungle floats, from which they distributed 2000 coconuts as "favors." They distributed the coconuts by throwing them as high into the air as they could. Occasional oaths indicated that direct hits had been scored on some heads.

Wed-3-2-49

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta Georgia
Wed. 4-6-49

'SPIRIT OF COTTON" WINGS WAY TO MIDWEST AND WEST—Miss Bobby Jean Jackson (front) talented senior coed at Arkansas State College, Pine Bluff is all loveliness as she returns a cute little farewell to friends at Municipal Airport before winging her way to Chicago on a Chi-Southern airliner with her chaperon, Mrs. R. Q. Venson. As the1949 "Spirit of Cotton," Miss Jackson is telling the nation on a series of radio appearances about the Cotton Makers Jubilee in such key cities as Chicago, Pittsburgh, Pa. New York City and Washington, D. C. The scroll which she carries will be returned to Memphis just before opening of the Jubilee with signatures of Mayors and other high government officials and a number of prominent personalities in other walks of life.

Wed-4-6-49

Mrs. Venson, chairman of the 'Spirit of Cotton" Selection Committee and the first queen of the Jubilee (1936) is wife of the founder of the gala celebration which runs concurrently each year with the Cotton Carnival

In Chicago, "The Spirit of Cotton" was guest of Al Benson, noted disc jockey over WJJD; and other radio appearances were arranged for WJAS, Pittsburgh; WCFL, Chicago and WENR, a telecast program.

Cotton Makers Jubilee will open May 8th and continue through May 14.

Crowned Queen of Carnival

By SAM MALTIN
(Special to The Courier)

Pittsburg Courier

MONTREAL—The home of a sleeping car porter in the heart of Montreal's working class district became the palace of a queen overnight. The seven-room walk-up flat next to a railroad track in St. Henri, made famous in the best-seller, "The Tin Flute"

Oct-2-22-49

also became the news center of the best Cinderella story of the year.

Attractive Beryl Dickinson Dash, a third-year arts student, was elected Queen of McGill University's famed Winter Carnival through a secret ballot election. This was the first time a Negro student was so honored at a "white" college and it brought newspapermen and photographers from all the leading news services, journals and magazines to her home and the Montreal Forum where the coronation was held.

Radios blared the "flash" on every news broadcast on coronation day . . . and veteran newspapermen, always happy when working on a "good story," saw it as one of the best stories of the year.

A capacity crowd at the forum cheered themselves hoarse as His Worship Mayor Camillien Houde, OBE, placed the crown on the head of the new queen to climax the most memorable birthday a girl could wish for.

It was midnight . . . the lights were dimmed . . . and two huge spotlights highlighted the throne on centre ice! There she was—the queen and her court, the four runners-up in the contest, surrounded by another bevy of about fifty coeds on skates.

It was Beryl's twenty-first birthday. And she was gifted with the best present she ever dreamed of. It was a gift she proudly shares with her race.

But after the crowning and the glory, there were more sober thoughts, so well reflected in an editorial in the Montreal Daily Herald:

Sat-2-26-49

"It is regrettable that it should be in order to congratulate the student body of a Canadian university upon the selection of a girl of a particular race for a campus honor.

"But since it still is in order (because of reactions in certain circles to similar campus events south of the line, and despite the waning of racial discrimination in Canada) we particularly congratulate McGill students on their choice of a carnival queen.

"We also add our felicitations to the many showering upon Miss Beryl Dickinson Dash, sure that pulchritude and charm gained her her carnival crown, and that discrimination of the right sort directed the student votes."

Never before has the election of a Campus queen taken so serious a turn at McGill University. Though like any other co-educational body, this staid university, famed the world over for its many medical discoveries and high rating, has its college fun, but education on the serious type holds the main interest of the 8,000 students.

But when it was announced that Beryl Dickinson Dash, the first Negro student ever to be nominated for Carnival queen was among the five finalists, interest grew fast and those who ignored such activities previously were out campaigning and voting.

STARTED AS FUN

It all started as a "bit of fun," as Beryl herself puts it. Someone suggested nominating Beryl and after discussing it with other Negro students, there are about 150 of them at McGill, it was decided that it would be a good idea to have a member of their race in the contest. Sat-2-26-49

Beryl didn't think she had a chance, but she saw the importance of having representation. Being nominated isn't easy. First, Leighton Hutson, a fellow student who thought of the idea originally, had to go out and gather twenty-five signatures of students backing Beryl. Then Beryl had to go through a "test," with twenty-seven other co-eds, before the Students Executive Council. She was asked to parade before this all-important student body. She was interviewed and examined. After a whole afternoon of it, she learned that she was among five finalists.

This in itself was a triumph. Beryl, nor her family, thought it would go much further. But it did. When the official announcement came, naming her the queen, through the majority campus vote, all Beryl could say was: "I'm so thrilled I can hardly believe it."

Her father was on the road at the time, working at his job as buffet porter on the Montreal-Hamilton CPR run, and saw the news in a Toronto newspaper. Mr. Dash, who is secretary-treasurer of the Montreal division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and very well known in the Montreal community, told The Courier that the election of his daughter wasn't just a vote for his daughter, but a vote and voice of the little people who had a chance again to show democracy in action and wanting that action."

"It was a distinct honor to my daughter and her race," he added.

It was a great thrill for the family and the community as a whole. There was talk of nothing else. Wires poured in from friends and strangers from all over Canada and the United States. Some offered modeling jobs for Beryl. For two days their phone never stopped ringing. There were interviews and picture-taking. There was a house full of people all the time. Members of the family were

PRIVATE CELEBRATION

After the coronation, Beryl and her family had a private celebration with their friends at the Rockhead Paradise. Next day, Beryl was on the job as queen, presenting prizes to winners of athletic ex-

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh Pa.
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Hail the Queen!—It was better than a Cinderella story. Better than the coach, pumpkin and slipper. A very real McGill University student body crowned a very real Beryl Dickinson Dash "Queen" of the Winter Carnival, scoring her charm and personality over and above a formidable field of contestants. Beryl was crowned at the Canadian school on her twenty-first birthday. Sat. 2-26-49

'Freedom Fair' to Be Just What Its Name Implies

Afro-American Sat. 11-12-49

Democracy to Rule in Sesquicentennial Area, but It'll Be Same Old Story Elsewhere

By ALICE A. DUNNIGAN

WASHINGTON (ANP) — There is no doubt but what every American citizen and foreign neighbor who visits the nation's capital next year will feel the tinge of "freedom" within the 114-acre area which will house "Freedom Fair."

But it is very doubtful that colored Americans who attend this fair will find a sufficient amount of freedom outside the bounds of the fair-ground to sit on a stool at a dime-store counter and munch down a 10-cent hot-dog, or to see a movie in a downtown theatre.

"There'll be no segregation at the exhibit," declared a spokesman for the National Capital Sesquicentennial Commission, "because 'Freedom Fair' means just what its name implies and any suggestion of segregation there would be unthinkable."

But the spokesman continued, "the Commission has nothing to do with policies of segregation practiced in Washington outside of the fair ground."

Fear "Red" Tag

In reply to a reporter's question, the spokesman admitted that a committee had called upon the Washington hotels urging them not to hike their rates during the period of the sesquicentennial. The hotels had agreed to this request providing the public eating places, transportation facilities and other public services maintain their present rates.

It would be useless to make a similar survey of hotels and other public facilities requesting the abolition of segregation during this period because such effort would yield no results, the reporter was told.

"If we should go around in Washington requesting this kind of democracy which you no doubt advocate we would be branded as Communists," declared the spokesman. This is an example of the "Red hysteria" which now exists in Washington even among the so-called liberals.

No Colored Appointed

It is apparent that the commission got off to a "not-so-liberal" start back in 1947, when not a single colored representative was appointed to serve on the 15-member commission which President Truman is serving as ex-officio chairman.

The flimsy excuse offered by the Commission for the exclusion of colored representatives was that the majority of colored people found it necessary to work for a living; therefore, were not able or willing to contribute a year's service without compensation as this commission has done.

Then, too, the spokesman added, they could think of no colored person in Washington who might be appointed on such a Commission except some of the members of the Howard University faculty.

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Kentucky

Revived Bullitt County Fair Stirs Up Memories of Last One 20 Years Ago

By MARION PORTER
Staff Correspondent, The Courier-Journal.

Shepherdsville, Ky., July 13.—Hiding their nostalgia for the good old days of 20 years ago, the older people of Bullitt County today set out to enjoy the County's first Fair since 1929.

The younger people with no memories of past glories to cast a shadow simply enjoyed the fair without reservation. But everybody pitched in to make the Fair at Shepherdsville a success for it was truly a community project. Practically everyone here had helped clear the old fairgrounds just a few months ago and restore it to a semblance of its former state.

No activity ever heard of at a fair has been left unscheduled for the four-day event here. Mule races, baby health contest, ugliest man, biggest family, greased pig, fiddlers contest, horseshoe pitching, dog show, watermelon contest, and gospel singing are just some of the events. Mrs. Henry Hamilton is in charge of the special events.

Gambling Devices Missing.

The midway was all a midway should be, complete with merry-go-round. Only gambling devices were lacking. Exhibits, small in some categories, were representative.

The Fair started officially with a parade led by a contingent from Fort Knox commanded by Capt. George Labadie. Starting from the Courthouse, the procession ended at the fairgrounds flagpole. (Fort Knox, which nipped off a part of Bullitt County for its own use a few years ago, still feels indebted to the county.) There was a 50-piece Army band directed by Warrant Officer Adrian Primo. There were two other bands—the Negro Boy Scouts from Bardstown, all the sons of veterans of Abraham Lincoln American Legion Post, and the Shepherdsville High School Band.

Everyone Helped To Make Project At Shepherdsville a Big Success

Day For Children.

Speakers at the brief ceremonies were J. D. Buckman, representing County Judge Clarence Dawson; Jack Herberman, president of the Bullitt County Fair Board—who received enthusiastic applause; John Wehrley, president of the Kentucky Association of County Fairs and Horse Shows and superintendent of the Kentucky State Fair, and L. Doc Cassidy, secretary of the County Fair Association.

According to tradition the first day of the Fair belonged to the children. There were races, singing contests, three-legged races, and even a laughing-boy contest. A Bardstown lad, Joseph Reed, 19, one of the Negro Scouts, carried off the laughing-boy prize of 75 cents. Master of ceremonies for the events was Charles Farmer of WKLO, Louisville.

It's 'More Streamlined.'

Fort Knox had an extensive exhibit including many pieces from the Patton Museum. The large display of farm implements was popular and scores gazed in fascination at a posthole digger at work. A square dance with Sleepy Marlin and his band supplying the music was on the night program.

"Yes, this fair is different from the old ones—but more streamlined I guess," said D. J. Crumbacker, Shepherdsville, Route 2. "I miss the old buildings—and we haven't got the track quite like we want it, but we will." He recalled seeing the great horse Bruno Munson run on the track. Bruno is buried at the side of the track. His tombstone tells that he won 114 times out of 134 starts. He was owned and trained by Hardy Cruise who, Crumbacker said, "sure will be attending this Fair if he's the man he used to be."

One woman—among many—who is delighted at the revival of the Fair is Mrs. O. P. Basham, who won several firsts in the cookery department. She won many firsts at previous Fairs. Her husband, who admitted he liked the seedlees blackberry jam better than any of his wife's entries, also was a frequent winner at Fairs two decades ago.

LAUGHING his way to a blue ribbon and a 75-cent prize in the laughing-boy contest was Joseph Reed, 19, Bardstown.

Vet's Quilt Wins.

Exclamations of approval were directed toward a blue-ribbon patchwork quilt, the handiwork of Roscoe O'Bryan, a disabled veteran.

Mrs. Marie Haines received first prize for a crocheted bedspread and crocheted doilies; Mrs. Evelyn Lee, first for pillow slips and several canned products. The 4-H Club girls who received firsts in the dressmaking division were Alice Ryan, Anna F. Dawson, Mary R. Barger, and Ida K. Barger.